



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 15, 2008  
Week Ending: September 14, 2008  
CWP WA-CW3508

## Apple Harvest Picked Up and Fall Seeding of Wheat Was Underway

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Spring grain harvest continued, with the end in sight. Whitman County reported their harvest was slowing. Asotin and Garfield Counties also reported grain harvest was nearly finished. A very dry soil profile throughout most of the eastern grain growing counties left many farmers wondering when to seed. However, Whitman, Adams and Lincoln Counties reported substantial seeding progress with few growers holding off until rain comes. Hay growers continued putting up third crop and fourth crop of hay, where allowed. Walla Walla County reported alfalfa seed harvest in progress. Garbanzo bean growers in Whitman County were picking up the speed of their harvest. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Kittitas County reported sweet corn harvest was nearing completion.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, no frost or precipitation was reported in the crop producing areas of the County. Bartlett pears, Gala and Honeycrisp apples were being harvested in the upper Valley. Golden Delicious apples were being harvested along the mid to lower Valley. Douglas and Chelan Counties reported apple and pear harvest continued. Whatcom County reported blueberry harvest was done. Pacific County reported cranberry growers were close to harvest. Yields were expect to be off due to cool, wet spring conditions

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 38 percent fair and 22 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the west side, livestock producers applied liquid manure and prepared fields for fall seeding to pasture. On the eastern side, cattle continued moving to market. Pacific County reported oyster growers continued harvest operations for triploid stock and finished seeding activities.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.6

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	38	50	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	38	37	2
Subsoil	18	54	28	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	36	48	0
Irrigation Water	0	9	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	8	88	0
Hay & Roughage	18	21	52	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	96	83	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	35	23	47	39
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	96	100	100
Barley Harvested	95	75	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	41	40	61	57
Field Corn Doughed	72	60	79	89
Field Corn Dented	42	15	59	66
Field Corn Mature	9	8	34	39
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	20	19	20	23
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	45	36	65	53
Dry Peas Harvested	98	92	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	82	67	97	95
Alfalfa Hay 4th Cutting	25	9	30	NA

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	4	17	78	1
Corn	0	4	30	65	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	47	43	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** The weather was sunny with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Crops were doing pretty good and were normal for the time of year.

**Gray Harbor:** The rural landscape began its transition into a tapestry of fall colors. Agricultural producers took advantage of sunny days with no rain to complete a myriad of farm chores. U-Pick pumpkin growers were preparing fields to open later this month. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Livestock producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields and preparing fields for fall seeding of pastures. Greenhouse tomato growers reported the harvest season had peaked.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Harvests were going on as normal for early to mid September. There was no measurable rain received. Pastures were drying up.

**Mason:** The area had good weather for harvesting.

**Pacific:** Dry, late season weather allowed producers to complete a variety of field activities. Oyster growers continued harvest operations with triploid stocks, and finished seeding activities. Invasive weed control operations were nearly completed for the year. Cranberry growers initiated harvest planning, readying equipment and completing dike repairs. Yields were expected to be well below average due to the cool spring and early summer conditions. Pasture conditions improved with earlier rainfall.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather was beneficial for crops in the South Puget Sound area. Crop conditions remained strong for the area. There were no unusual situations to report.

**Skagit:** High temperatures averaged 68 degrees. There was no precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With no rain, farmers were getting things in order for the fall. Pea harvest was done for the season. This year yields were above average with good quality. Wheat harvest was completed. This year's crop was above average, but due to

the rains during the harvest, farmers will take a large price hit to have the crop dried down so it will not sprout. Luckily prices were up for 2008 so it will average out. The 2008 cabbage seed crop was harvested. Once again rains during harvest will reduce yields. Carrots were in the ground and actively growing. Blueberry harvest was getting closer to finishing up for the year but blackberries were coming on strong. Corn and potato harvest had begun. Next year's flower crop was going in the ground as was next year's cabbage seed crop.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was sunny with high temperatures in the 70s and lows in the 40s. Many crops were still behind schedule.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** It was a perfect week for field work. Some farmers were getting a last cutting of local hay. Corn silage harvest was underway and potato harvest continued. Apple harvest continued, with later varieties ripening up nicely.

**Thurston:** A week of sunny days with no rain provided ideal conditions for agricultural producers who were focused on crop harvest. Cereal grain producers were able to finish up combining operations. The beautiful fall weather provided the perfect opportunity for organic vegetable growers to transition from summer to fall produce sales at the Olympia Farmer's market. Turfgrass growers took advantage of the dry conditions to prepare fields for fall planting. Livestock producers took advantage of the perfect weather for making a final cutting of haylage. U-Pick pumpkin growers were preparing fields for harvest which is slated to begin in just two weeks.

**Whatcom:** The area had good pasture growth due to heavy dew in the mornings combined with plenty of sunshine. The drier warmer weather may help the corn reach the full dent stage. Producers were concerned about the lack of maturity and the excessive moisture content of the corn. Blueberry harvest concluded. Potato, wheat, and barley harvest was ongoing.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** Apple and pear harvest continued. The 2009 winter wheat crop seeding was finishing up. Fall pastures were dry. Cool temperatures at night were helping the apple crop to color well.

**Kittitas:** Second cutting of timothy hay was well underway, perhaps 70 percent completed. Sweet corn harvest was 75 percent completed. New seeding timothy was doing well. Daytime temperatures were still very favorable for crop growth.

**Klickitat:** Weather was moderate and dry. Producers were getting fall planting done and wrapping up harvest.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Summer delivered another near perfect week of weather for farm activities. Daytime highs were consistently in the 70s to 80s and overnight lows were in the 40s. Despite heavy nighttime dew, overall conditions remained very dry. Hay and grain harvest continued. Weed control and fall field preparation was underway. Conditions were not the best for seeding. Pastures and range were also much in need of rain. As everywhere, fertilizer, fuel and other input costs remained

high and recent fall in grain prices caused some anxiety. Mountain huckleberries were plentiful and as big as blueberries. This was reported to be the best huckleberry season in years. In home gardens, tomatoes and corn at last began to ripen.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from one degree below normal to five degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Daily temperatures held stable all week long with daily highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s and nighttime lows dipping into the mid to lower 40s. There was no frost and no precipitation in the crop-producing areas of the County. Bartlett pears, Gala apples and Honeycrisp apples were being harvested in the Upper Valley. Golden Delicious apples were harvested along the mid to lower Valley.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat seeding was mostly completed and the remaining acreage will be seeded after the area receives precipitation.

**Asotin:** Dry weather continued. The entire county was in need of moisture for fall seeding and pastures.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Dry weather continued and harvest was nearly completed. Planting of winter wheat had begun. Moisture conditions were good in some areas, but most areas needed more rain for proper germination. Rangeland conditions continued to deteriorate. Rain was needed to improve conditions for fall grazing. Some cattle producers considered culling heavily or selling out completely due to the dry weather and the high cost of hay.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat emerged where possible. Many acres will not come up until the area receives rain.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat harvest was mostly completed and spring cereal harvest will be completed soon. Winter wheat seeding was around 50 percent completed, with growers expressing concerns about seed zone soil moisture conditions.

**Pend Oreille:** The high was 74 degrees the low was 28 degrees with no precipitation received. Morning dew helped to keep new grasses moist. Irrigated farms were still cutting some grass hay even though the cutting season was very late. Livestock were on pasture with no assistance of hay supplement. Livestock were fattening on new grass shoots and some grain supplement.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Good weather allowed combines to move through the fields and a number of producers have wrapped up harvest. Some producers were still working on draws that were left and were going back to pick them up. Some producers started to seed winter wheat.

**Stevens:** Grain harvest was nearing completion on most area farms. A few hay producers continued working on third cutting. On non-irrigated fields only green patches were being cut. Cattle continued moving to market.

**Walla Walla:** Most producers were waiting for some rain before starting to seed winter crops, although there was seeding in some areas. Many indicated they will start seeding the first of next week regardless of rainfall or not. There was quite a bit of spraying throughout the area and field burning in preparation of seeding.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There was no precipitation, but cooler nights brought sub-moisture up. There was some seeding in the dry areas of the county. Some winter wheat had emerged, while other areas were waiting for rain. Third cutting of hay was winding up. Alfalfa seed harvest was in full swing. Hay quality was very good due to good curing weather. First cutting was late and a little short. Overall hay was still in short supply and prices high.

**Whitman:** Harvest activity was coming to a close for the 2008 crop year. Mainly garbanzo beans were left to harvest and activity was accelerating on getting those cut. Most of the spring grains were completed. Seeding winter wheat had begun in the western part of the county. Other operations were fertilizing or disking pea ground in preparation for seeding.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of September 8 - 14, 2008**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	41	73	57	-2	52	-8	0	-7	0.00	-0.42	0	29.88	-7.14	81	180
Hoquiam	43	77	59	-2	64	-12	7	-7	0.00	-0.71	0	58.75	-10.52	85	206
Kelso	45	86	64	+3	98	+18	28	+7	0.00	-0.54	0	32.08	-15.55	67	143
Olympia	40	81	60	+2	75	+13	8	-1	0.00	-0.49	0	44.56	-7.02	86	178
Seattle-Tacoma	50	78	64	+3	99	+18	29	+9	0.00	-0.42	0	36.35	-1.69	96	171
Shelton	40	82	60	-2	73	-5	6	-14	0.00	-0.58	0	59.61	-6.39	90	175
Tacoma WA AP	42	78	60	-1	71	-2	3	-11	0.00	-0.42	0	33.25	-7.90	81	159
Vancouver WA	48	91	68	+8	129	+51	59	+39	0.00	-0.46	0	37.06	-5.18	88	164
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	40	85	63	+4	95	+23	25	+3	0.00	-0.14	0	6.94	-2.28	75	69
Omak AP	44	88	65	+6	103	+33	33	+12	0.00	-0.21	0	7.99	-7.51	52	68
Stampede Pass	46	75	59	+10	62	+39	3	+2	0.00	-0.75	0	74.59	-7.94	90	204
Wenatchee AP	51	88	68	+3	124	+19	54	+12	0.00	-0.09	0	4.33	-4.23	51	45
Yakima AP	40	90	63	+2	92	+6	22	-8	0.00	-0.09	0	6.15	-2.06	75	64
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	38	86	62	+4	83	+20	13	-4	0.00	-0.28	0	17.55	-4.26	80	128
Deer Park	32	82	57	-4	50	-25	0	-25	0.00	-0.21	0	21.21	+2.23	112	140
Republic	44	82	62	+7	86	+37	16	+5	0.00	-0.21	0	12.03	-4.34	73	107
Spokane AP	45	82	63	+3	93	+18	23	-2	0.01	-0.18	1	16.75	-0.17	99	128
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	45	88	67	+2	121	+8	51	+3	0.00	-0.09	0	4.41	-2.98	60	71
Moses Lake	43	87	65	-2	108	-5	38	-10	0.00	-0.09	0	4.37	-3.02	59	70
Quincy	43	85	65	+2	106	+11	36	+1	0.00	-0.13	0	7.11	-0.99	88	73
Ritzville	45	84	63	+3	94	+12	24	-2	0.00	-0.14	0	9.39	-2.19	81	90
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	44	92	68	-2	128	-9	58	-10	0.00	-0.07	0	3.94	-2.75	59	47
Pasco	39	91	65	-2	103	-8	33	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	7.11	-0.59	92	72
Pullman	38	81	59	+0	65	-3	5	-16	0.00	-0.21	0	18.35	-3.19	85	123
Walla Walla Rgn	45	87	67	+2	123	+8	53	+3	0.00	-0.21	0	13.84	-6.10	69	112
Whitman Mission	36	89	60	-3	74	-15	8	-24	0.00	-0.14	0	12.21	-1.85	87	116
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	50	87	68	+3	127	+17	57	+9	0.00	-0.20	0	8.36	-4.51	65	100

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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